

Summer Reading List for Thompson Incoming Seventh Graders: 2017

The minimum expectation for an incoming seventh grade student is to **read one fiction book from this list AND one nonfiction book from this list**. Be ready to participate in activities based on the two books when school starts.

FICTION (Read one book):

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Roy Eberhardt is the new kid again. But it's still the same old routine: table by himself at lunch, no real friends, and thick-headed bullies like Dana Matherson pushing him around. But soon he meets others that will involve him in an environmental crusade. (304 pages)

Shug by Jenny Han

Tall, freckled, gawky seventh-grader Annemarie Wilcox (whose family calls her Shug) has a beautiful, popular older sister; a gorgeous, alcoholic mother who doesn't fit in their small Georgia town; and a father who's always away on business. She also has a huge crush on Mark, the neighborhood boy who has always been her best friend. As the school year starts, Shug must deal with Mark's rejection, her parents' bitter fights, and a falling out with her closest girlfriend. (248 pages)

Heat by Mike Lupica

Growing up in the Bronx and playing Little League baseball in the shadow of Yankee Stadium, it's no surprise that 12-year-old Michael Arroyo loves baseball, especially the New York Yankees, even though he can't afford to buy a ticket to watch them play. Michael's the best Little League pitcher in the district and seems destined to lead his all-star team to the championship game, which will be held inside Yankee Stadium, with a trip to the Little League World Series on the line. But all that changes when a jealous rival coach challenges whether Michael is as young as he claims. (220 pages)

Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick

Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece. Salted with humor and peppered with devastating realities, DRUMS, GIRLS, AND DANGEROUS PIE is a heartwarming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis. – Goodreads (273 pages)

Full Tilt by Neal Shusterman

The myriad bits in 16-year-old Blake's brain become the stuff of an alternate universe, a nightmare amusement park in which he must experience seven wild rides before dawn in order to escape. The teen has always been the careful child in his family; at age seven, he was the only survivor of a school-bus crash. Since then, he has taken on the responsibility of saving his brother Quinn, who constantly needs to be rescued from his own impulsive behavior. (208 pages)

Double Identity by Margaret Petersen Haddix

One October evening, Bethany's parents drive her to another state to stay with an aunt she never knew existed. Left confused and without a way to contact her parents, the 12-year-old tries to figure out the reason behind their strange behavior and learns some family secrets in the process. It turns out that she is the clone of her sister, who was killed years earlier in a tragic automobile accident, and she is being hunted by a man who wants to expose her secret existence for his own benefit. (192 pages)

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Mississippi Beaumont ("Mibs" for short) simply cannot wait for her 13th birthday. There's the allure of finally becoming a teenager, of course, but in the Beaumont family, 13 is when family members get their "savvy," or unworldly power. For Mibs's older brother Fish, it's control over the elements, and for her mother it's the ability to do everything perfectly. Unfortunately, Mibs's excitement is cut short when

her father is injured in a car accident. Convinced that her new powers will be able to save her Poppa, she and some new friends climb aboard a bus toting pink bibles on her birthday, in the hopes of getting to the hospital. Instead they find themselves headed in the wrong direction with the cops looking for them, Mibs's powerful brother seriously angry, and the son of a preacher man she has a crush on coming dangerously close to figuring out the Beaumonts' secret. Mibs's real savvy isn't what she expected, and neither are her traveling companions. (342 pages)

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer (futuristic/challenging concepts)

To most people around him, Matt is not a boy, but a beast. A room full of chicken litter, roaches for friends and old chicken bones for toys is considered good enough for him. But for El Patron, lord of a country called Opium – a strip of poppy fields lying between the U.S. and what was once called Mexico – Matt is a guarantee of eternal life. El Patron loves Matt as he loves himself, for Matt *is* himself. They share identical DNA. (400 pages)

NONFICTION (Read one book)

The Great Fire by Jim Murphy

On the night of October 8, 1871, a fire broke out in a barn belonging to Patrick and Catherine O'Leary. Before the fire was finally quenched, an area, comprising the very center of Chicago, was burned out, and some 100,000 people were left homeless. (144 pages)

All Shook Up – The Life and Death of Elvis Presley by Barry Denenberg

“Before Elvis, there was nothing.” - John Lennon.

This fascinating biography of the “King of Rock and Roll,” will bring Elvis and his music alive. From his small roots outside of Memphis, his glamorous life at Graceland, and his legendary status...You'll find out what makes Elvis “The King”. (176 pages)

Stealing Home: The Story of Jackie Robinson by Barry Denenberg

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson stepped onto Ebbets Field as a Brooklyn Dodger and changed American baseball forever. The first black man to play in the white major leagues, he had the courage to confront racism and fight for the rights of all black people, on and off the baseball diamond. He shattered the color barrier, and with tremendous skill and determination, he became not only one of the most legendary baseball players of all time, but also a great American hero. –Amazon (128 pages)

The President Has Been Shot!: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy by James L. Swanson

In his new young-adult book on the Kennedy assassination, James Swanson will transport readers back to one of the most shocking, sad, and terrifying events in American history...Swanson will deploy his signature "you are there" style -- a riveting, ticking-clock pace, with an unprecedented eye for dramatic details and impeccable historical accuracy -- to tell the story of the JFK assassination as it has never been told before. –Amazon (336 pages)

Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know about Fast Food by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson

Kids love fast food. And the fast food industry definitely loves kids. It couldn't survive without them. Did you know that the biggest toy company in the world is McDonald's? It's true. In fact, one out of every three toys given to a child in the United States each year is from a fast food restaurant. Not only has fast food reached into the toy industry, it's moving into our schools. One out of every five public schools in the United States now serves brand name fast food. But do kids know what they're eating? Where do fast food hamburgers come from? And what makes those fries taste so good? In *Chew On This*, they share with kids the fascinating and sometimes frightening truth about what lurks between those sesame seed buns, what a chicken 'nugget' really is, and how the fast food industry has been feeding off children for generations. –Amazon (318 pages)